SYCAMORE MAPLE *Acer pseudoplatanus* L.

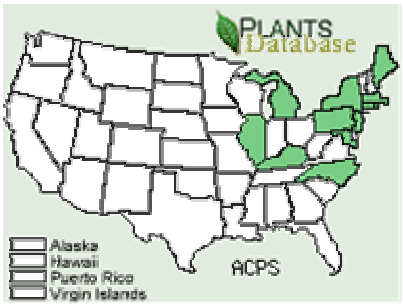
Common Names: Sycamore maple, mock plane
Native Origin: Europe and western Asia

Description: *Acer pseudoplatanus* is a tall tree that can reach 100 feet in height. The bark has scales that often flaking off. The palmate leaves have a leathery texture unlike most maples and are dark green above and lighter green and pubescent on the major veins below. The leaves have 5 lobes with the 2 basal lobes being reduced compared to the 3 lobes in the middle. The leaf margins are coarsely toothed, but do not have sharp tips. They are 3-6inches wide and are cordate at their base.

The yellowish-green flowers appear in May and are in pendulous 2-6inches long. The flowers themselves are small, measuring 0.2inches across. The fruits have broad samaras (wings) that are at angles of 60-90 degrees from each other. The seeds are primarily wind-dispersed.

Habitat: Sycamore maple exists primarily as a planted shade tree. Spreading by seed from such plantings, it can exist in abandoned fields, early successional forest edge, open disturbed areas, pastures, roadsides, vacant lots, yards and/or gardens. *Acer pseudoplatanus* is salt tolerant and shade intolerant; it does well in exposed, coastal habitats. It is well adapted to soil extremes and is tolerant of pollution.

Distribution: In the U.S. it is found from Maine to Michigan and south from Kentucky to North Carolina. In New England it is most numerous along the coast, particularly on Cape Cod, coastal Rhode Island and southeastern Connecticut. So far, it is an uncommon escapee to the inland.



Ecological Impact: *Acer pseudoplatanus* is capable of producing large numbers of young, giving rise to dense stands trees with the potential for crowding out native plant species. This species does not appear to be much of a threat to relatively intact forest communities.

Control and Management:

Mechanical -pulling, cutting small populations of plants, treat re-sprouts with herbicides

Chemical- Use herbicides for large populations or in conjunction with mechanical techniques

Reference: www.invasivespecies.gov, http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane, www. plants.usda.gov, USFS Fact sheet-http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/trees/ACEPSEA.pdf, www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/factsheet.cfm?ID=162